



Board Certified in Reproductive
Endocrinology and Infertility

Fertility Facts

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Making Families a Reality

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Fertility Over 40

As age-related infertility continues to increase so do the number of creative treatment options fertility clinics perform to achieve pregnancy. According to the National Center for Health Statistics there has been a boom in "late-timing" motherhood over the past ten years. We may credit this to the consistent media coverage of 40-plus pregnant celebrities, or maybe it's due to factors such as women marrying later in life or waiting longer to start a family for career-related reasons. No matter the attributors, this does not offset the natural age-related decline in fertility that occurs particularly after age 35 and especially after 40.

While a healthy 30-year-old woman has a 20% chance of conceiving each month, by age 40, that chance decreases to only 5% per month. This concept of decreased success due to age-related factors holds true for both natural conception as well as conception using assisted reproductive technologies (ART).

For those women over 40 who are unable to conceive using traditional IVF methods, egg donation and occasionally use of a gestational carrier can be highly successful. Success rates (live birth) for egg donation cycles at Carolina Conceptions approached the 60% mark in 2008 (latest statistics available on sart.org).

There is another option for patients affected by age-related infertility that has garnered much attention in the medical community for its multiple benefits to both current and past patients; Embryo Adoption/Donation is the latest treatment to be added to Carolina Conceptions' fertility services and we have personally experienced its rapid rise in demand. The program allows past patients, who no longer have a need for their stored embryos, to anonymously donate them to a couple in need. For current patients, it's an ideal alternative to traditional adoption or even egg donation as it is often less expensive, less complicated, and still allows the couple the experience of pregnancy and childbirth.

The process is similar to that of a donor egg IVF cycle where after an initial consultation, the recipient receives a basic health assessment, is matched with a donor based on given specifications, and then undergoes an in-office procedure to transfer the frozen embryos into the uterus. In accordance with FDA guidelines, all donors are also screened prior to approval.

Embryo donation success rates depend on several factors, including the quality of the embryos that were frozen, the age of the woman who provided the eggs, and the number of embryos transferred. There are currently no national statistics available due to the limited number of embryo donation cases performed nationwide. Carolina Conceptions hopes to publish our own embryo donation success rates in the near future as the program progresses.

News

New Service Worker Discount!

From September 1st, 2010 through December 31st, 2010, Carolina Conceptions will offer all military, police and fire personnel almost 50% off on a single IVF cycle in appreciation of their service to our community. Visit www.carolinaconceptions.com for details.

Staff Updates:

Meghan Markman, RNC, BSN – Embryo Adoption Coordinator

Meghan is Carolina Conception's newest full time addition and originally hails from Fayetteville, NC. In 2004, she graduated with honors from UNC Chapel Hill with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She has previously worked in the Labor and Delivery departments at UNC Women's Hospital and Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago. Meghan is now the coordinator for the Embryo Adoption program and looks forward to helping many families in their journey towards parenthood. Meghan can be reached at meghan.markman@carolinaconceptions.com.

Michele Medlin, RN – Donor/Recipient Coordinator

Michele is technically not new to the Carolina Conceptions' team, however her role was recently expanded to become the new full time Egg Donor/Recipient Coordinator. Michele earned her Bachelor of Science in Biology from NCSU in 1992, but it was Michele's passion for all aspects of women's health that eventually led her back to the classroom to complete an Associate Degree in nursing in 2009. Michele is an integral part of Carolina Conceptions' commitment to providing educational support and compassionate care to women and their partners and can be reached at michele.medlin@carolinaconceptions.com.

About Us: Carolina Conceptions is the fastest growing infertility center in the southeast and is the only private practice of its kind in the Triangle area where all doctors are board certified in both OB/GYN and Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility. The physicians share more than 45 years experience in the infertility field and have achieved some of the highest success rates in both the region and country. The practice offers a fully comprehensive range of treatment options along with a highly trained staff who are dedicated to delivering friendly and compassionate care.